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YANKTON, DAKOTA TERRITORY, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 25, 1877.

No. 231.

THE DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

TWELFTH SESSION.

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Days.

Council.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

YANKTON, D. T., Jan. 24.

Council met at half past two o'clock, Mr. Wallace in the chair.

A message was transmitted to the council from Governor Pennington giving notice of his approval of council bill No. 3, a memorial asking for the division of the territory and the establishment of a new territory from the northern part.

On motion of Mr. Mills the council went into committee of the whole, Mr. Mills in the chair, on the penal code.

A message was received from the house inviting the council to assemble in the hall of the house and listen to the address of Dr. Meyer, relative to Black Hills matters.

On motion, the committee rose and asked leave to sit again, which being granted, the council adjourned to the hall of the house.

After due consideration of house file No. 2, a bill for an act establishing a penal code for the territory of Dakota, the committee rose and reported the bill with a recommendation that it pass. After some discussion and the adoption of several amendments, the bill passed.

YANKTON, Jan. 25, 1877.

Council convened at ten o'clock, a. m. and was opened with prayer by the chaplain.

The president in the chair and all the members present.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on territorial affairs, reported back house file No. 7, a memorial to congress for an act to vacate certain Indian reservations, and recommended its passage. The memorial was passed. It asks for the vacation of the Indian reservation above Beaver creek, set apart by order of the president.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, &c.

Mr. Pettigrew introduced council bill No. 15, an act for a bill to extend the time of paying the tax in Minnehaha county for the year 1876, without penalty and interest. The bill was referred to the committee on finance.

THIRD READING OF BILLS, &c.

The bill introduced by Mr. Valentine, an act to amend the act relative to lunatics, passed at the last session of the legislature was taken up, read a third time and passed by the following vote: Ayaes—Back, Bailey, Duncan, Gunderson, Mills, Pettigrew, Potter, Valentine, Wallace, Wilson, Mr. President, Noes—La Moure, Turner.

On motion of Mr. Wallace, the vote by which the bill passed was reconsidered and the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Under suspension of the rules, Mr. La Moure gave notice of a bill to incorporate the village of Grand Forks.

Mr. Wilson asked to be relieved from further duty upon the standing committee on elections in the case of McHench against Back. He stated that certain malicious reports had been circulated, compromising his integrity, in connection with this case, and that in justice to himself and Mr. Back, he desired to withdraw from further work in this connection. He denounced the report as utterly without foundation.

The president stated that it was not possible to silence the voice of slander—that the only course was to go ahead regardless of what was spoken by envious tongues. He hoped Mr. Wilson would not insist on his proposed withdrawal.

Mr. Wilson said he must insist upon it.

Mr. Wallace asked if Mr. Wilson referred to any member of the council as the authors or abettors of the reports mentioned.

Mr. Wilson said he did not.

Mr. Wallace was of the opinion that the gentleman should not permit such reports to have an effect upon him. If it was his decided wish he (Mr. Wallace) would, out of courtesy for the gentleman, vote for his relief from the duties specified.

Mr. Valentine said he hoped Mr. Wilson would reconsider his determination. He (Mr. Valentine) had every confidence in the integrity of Mr. Wilson, and would like to see him remain in the work.

Mr. La Moure said he knew the source of these malicious reports and his knowledge of that source induced him to remark that he placed no confidence in them. He hoped Mr. Wilson would not insist on withdrawing from the committee.

Mr. Duncan said he had entire confidence in Mr. Wilson's integrity, but out of courtesy to that gentleman, he presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the request of Mr. Wilson, asking to be relieved from the committee on elections, be concurred in by the council.

By a rising vote this resolution was rejected, and Mr. Wilson remains on the committee.

A resolution was received from the house, asking for the appointment of a committee of two to act with a house committee in drafting a revenue law for Yankton county.

On motion of Mr. Wallace, Mr. President and Mr. Potter were appointed.

Mr. Mills introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Certain parties have circulated slanderous reports touching the integrity of Col. R. Wilson, who is an honored and respected member of this council; therefore,

Resolved, That the said Col. R. Wilson has the entire confidence and respect of this council, and that we believe the reports referred to to be false and malicious and without any foundation in fact.

On motion of Mr. Miner, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Valentine, the council went into committee of the whole, Mr. Mills in the chair, on house file No. 1, a bill for an act to provide a civil code for the territory of Dakota.

House.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Yankton, Jan. 24.

The house re-assembled at 2 p. m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The speaker announced as the committee to prepare a revenue law for Yankton county, Messrs Ziebach, Iverson and Burke.

Also, as a standing committee on highways, roads and bridges, Messrs. Adams, Vanassel, Inman, Hackett and Thompson.

On motion of Mr. Clarkson, the rules were suspended and the vote by which the civil code was amended making the rate of interest ten instead of twelve per cent., was reconsidered.

The question then recurring upon the adoption of the amendment, the amendment was lost.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

The house was informed that Dr. C. W. Meyer, who was invited by a joint resolution passed January 20, to present the advantages and wants of the Black Hills, was present and prepared to present his address.

Messrs. Clarkson and Inman were appointed a committee to inform the council of the presence of Dr. Meyer, and conduct them to the hall of the house.

JOINT CONVENTION.

The members of the council having been conducted to the hall of the house, the clerk read the address of Dr. Meyer. [See inside of this issue for the address in full.]

At the conclusion of the reading on motion of Mr. Beadle, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we have listened with much pleasure to the instructive address by Dr. C. W. Meyer read before us, and we request him to accept the thanks of this joint convention therefor.

Mr. Clarkson offered a resolution that 2000 copies of Dr. Meyer's address be printed for general circulation.

Some discussion followed, when Mr. Kelleher moved that the printed copies be delivered to the members of the house and each member pay his pro rata share therefor.

On motion the matter was postponed until after the regular order to-morrow.

The house then adjourned.

Thursday, Jan. 25.

House met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the speaker.

Roll called, members all present. The minutes were read and approved.

The speaker announced as the special committee on fees and compensation of officers, Messrs. Iverson, Inman, Dunham and Sargent.

Mr. Iverson from the committee on engrossment reported back a bill, and recommended its passage.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

By Mr. Falde—A memorial to the postmaster general, asking for increase of service on mail route No. 35,028, from Canton to Milltown.

Also, for increase of service on mail route No. 35,029 from Canton to Vermillion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Hopkins—To repeal sections two and three of chapter five, and sections two and three of chapter six of the private laws of 1874-5.

By Mr. Hackett—To amend the charter of the city of Bismarck; also, a bill creating new counties and defining the boundaries thereof.

By Mr. Adams—To repeal chapter 32 of special and private laws of 1872-3, relating to the military bridge across the Big Sioux river.

By Mr. Hagle—To locate a territorial road from Firesteel on the Dakota river by way of Chunks and Wessington springs to Fort Thompson on the Missouri river.

All of which were read a first time. House files Nos. 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 were read a second time, and referred to appropriate committees.

A message from the council informed the house that the council had passed house file No. 2, a bill creating a penal code for the territory of Dakota, with amendments.

The bill to amend the act to incorporate the city of Yankton was referred to a committee consisting of the members from Yankton county.

House file No. —, to attach Ransom county to Richland county for recording purposes, was read a third time and passed.

The house then took a recess until 2 o'clock p. m.